



The Fire Service News



New Hampshire Fire Academy



October/November/December 2000

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A Service of New Hampshire Division of Fire Standards & Training

"Training on the Leading Edge"

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New Hampshire Fire Service:

As I sit in my office writing this letter, I can also watch the "Statewide Entrance Exam" ladder climb being administered at our drillground. It is quite a sight to see the future of the New Hampshire Fire Service as I walk around while this test is being administered. Two things come to mind:

1. What a great job the senior fire service in the State has done to instill the values of education and experience, both fire service and emergency medical service, upon these future fire service members.
2. It is great to see these fire service candidates and know that many already have the appropriate fire service certifications, medical certifications (including paramedic), and higher education in fire service areas.

The importance of these two points is the status of the fire service, whether fulltime or not, as a profession with decorum, and not simply a "job" as it was decades ago. I applaud everyone, even the newer fire service membership that had such a belief in the stature of the fire service. Who knows what the next buzz-word of the fire service will be, like emergency medical services in the 70's, hazardous materials in the 80's, and terrorism in the 90's...who knows what is next, but with the above mentioned values, we will be ready!

We have been awarded three significant grants; a couple we have touched on recently, but here is a status report:

1. The FAA has officially approved the Aircraft Rescue and Fire Fighting facility grant and construction should start before winter!
2. The Collapse Rescue Building prop is in the engineering phase and construction should start in the near future.
3. We have received a grant to build a Liquefied Petroleum Gas Training Trailer, which we hope to have on the road by June 2001!

Our thanks to all who make the New Hampshire Fire Service the professional entity that it is—kudos to all of you!! Thank You.

Respectfully,

Richard A. Mason, Director

Message from the Chairman - NFPA 1720, the NVFC Perspective

NFPA 1710, Standard for the Organization of Fire Suppression, Emergency Medical Operations, and Special Operations provided to the Public by Career Fire Departments; and NFPA 1720, Standard on Volunteer Fire Service Deployment are out for another round of comments (comments must be received by 5:00 p.m. EST, on October 6).

The NVFC has been interested in the development of standards that are attainable by a strong majority of the fire service. We remain opposed to the development of multiple standards that are based solely upon the staffing system used in the local emergency services organization. The NVFC has always maintained that any national standard must address the differences in the provision of fire protection throughout the United States without regard to whether these fire protection services are provided by volunteer or paid personnel or a combination thereof.

In creating the 1710 and 1720 proposed standards, the NFPA Standards Council has decided to disregard our concerns and has moved in the direction of a dual standard format. The proposed 1710 standard specifically deals only with career fire departments. Although the 1720 committee attempted to be more inclusive, the Standards Council has restricted the 1720 standard to predominately volunteer fire department.

Although these proposed standards provide that the authority having jurisdiction can choose whether or not to use these standards, fire chiefs across the country know this is not the case. More often than not, fire departments have been held accountable to NFPA documents in court and in individual state Departments of Labor. In addition, these dual standards do not address how an increasing number of combination departments should handle the issue.

In June 1997, the NFPA committee working to revise the 1200 standard (Fire Service Organization and Deployment) finally gave up on creating a national consensus standard and sent the matter back to the Standards Councils for clarification or modification. At that point, the NFPA had received more than 20,000 comments, most of them negative, concerning the 1200 standard document. The NVFC had facilitated the comment period by making sample comments available on the NVFC homepage (www.nvfc.org).

The NVFC testified before the Standards Council to oppose the creation of two separate standards that would replace NFPA 1200. The Standards Council ignored our comments and decided to move ahead with the dual standards. In early 1999, the Standards Council created two committees to develop separate standards for deployment now known as 1710 and 1720.

The NVFC was faced with a difficult decision. We could refuse to participate in the process standing on the principle of opposing dual standards. On the other hand, it was obvious NFPA was serious with the creation of a dual standard and there was real concern about the Volunteer standard language if we were not at the table. Therefore, the NVFC obtained three seats on the 1720 committee. The three representatives on the 1720 committee have attempted to cultivate a document that puts the vast majority of the decisions about service levels in the hands of the authority having jurisdiction.

The NVFC will continue to actively oppose dual standards. However, when others create dual standards over our objections, the NVFC will work within the process to ensure that the voice of the volunteer fire service is heard.

New Hampshire Fire Standards & Training Commission Members

REPRESENTING:

Commissioner of Education
Dr. G. William Porter

Commissioner of Safety
John A. Stephen

Attorney General
Stephen Judge

Forest Protection - Chief
Robert (Bud) D. Nelson

NH Fire Chiefs Association - Career
Brian J. Thibeault

NH Fire Chiefs Association - Volunteer
Harold Harbour

Professional Firefighters of NH - IAFF
David Duquette

Fire Instructors & Officers Association of NH
Scott Carrigan

Federation of Fire Mutual Aids Association
Roger Hatfield

NH State Firemen's Association
Paul E. Fortier

Insurance Industry of NH
John C. Hogleund

NH Municipal Association
Peter Russell

NH Permanent Firemen's Association
Karl J. Berardi

NH Fire Prevention Society
Charles L. Chalk

Division of Fire Safety - Director
(State Fire Marshal)

Donald P. Bliss

EXECUTIVE OFFICER:

Division of Fire Standards & Training - Director
Richard A. Mason

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

1st Weds. of each month (except July-August)

NH Fire Standards & Training Commission Meeting, 9:30 a.m. NHFA

2nd Thurs. of each month

Tests/Retests; sittings at 9:30 a.m. and 6:00 p.m.;
preregistration required by 1st of month NHFA

Weds. October 4

NH Fire Service Committee of Merit Awards Ceremony Capitol Center for
the Arts, Concord

Weds. Nov. 1

NH Fire Standards & Training Commission's
"Academy Awards" Ceremony NHFA

FIRE INSTRUCTOR PROGRAMS:

Saturdays Oct. 7-Nov. 18 Fire Service Instructor I NHFA

FIRE OFFICER PROGRAMS:

Mon.-Fri. Oct. 2-6 Fire Officer I & II - Week #1 NHFA

Mon.-Fri. Oct. 16-20 Fire Officer I & II - Week #2 NHFA

Mon.-Fri. Oct. 20-Nov. 3 Fire Officer I & II - Week #3 NHFA

FIREFIGHTER PROGRAMS:

Mon.&Weds. Sept. 11-Feb. 14 Firefighter I - Sections A & B (evenings) NHFA

Tues.&Thurs. Sept. 12-Nov. 21 Firefighter II (evenings) NHFA

HAZARDOUS MATERIALS PROGRAMS:

Watch for future listings

INDUSTRIAL TRAINING:

Watch for future listings

NATIONAL FIRE ACADEMY PROGRAMS:

Sat.-Sun. Nov. 4-5 Basic Life Support and Hazardous Materials Incidents (BLS) NHFA

SPECIALTY PROGRAMS:

Watch for future listings

TERRORISM PROGRAMS:

Sun.-Fri. Oct. 22-28 Rescue Systems I NHFA

FREE CD-ROM TRAINING TOOL AVAILABLE FOR FIRE SERVICES:

"FIGHTING FIRE IN SPRINKLERED BUILDINGS"

A free fire fighting training program, "Fighting Fire in Sprinklered Buildings," is now available on CD-ROM to public fire services. The program helps firefighters understand the capabilities of automatic sprinklers and how to use sprinklers to their advantage at a fire scene.

The "Fighting Fire in Sprinklered Buildings" CD explains how a sprinkler operates, how sprinkler systems are designed, why sprinklered buildings burn, and how to avoid any action that could cause a sprinkler system to unnecessarily fail. It also includes an instructor's lesson plan, a four-hour PowerPoint training program, video clips and students handouts.

FM Global developed the CD following extensive studies. "Firefighters are certainly the experts at a fire scene; however, sometimes incorrect assumptions are made about automatic sprinkler systems," said Jeff Mattern, FM Global's fire service program coordinator.

"When a fire strikes, firefighters and automatic sprinklers are playing on the same team, so it's important to fully understand the capabilities of a sprinkler system."

To obtain a free copy of the CD, send a request on fire service letterhead, signed by a chief officer, to: Jeff Mattern, FM Global, 401 City Avenue, Suite 715, Bala Cynwyd, PA 19004. Requests are limited to one CD per fire service.

News Release

Chief of NH Forest Protection Bureau receives award for outstanding service

(Concord, N.H.) Chief Robert D. ("Bud") Nelson of the New Hampshire Division of Forests & Lands' Forest Protection Bureau recently received the Forest Fire Control Program Outstanding Service Award during the Northeast Forest Fire Supervisors annual meeting. Chief Nelson was recognized by State Foresters, the U.S. Forest Service, State and Private Forestry and fellow Fire Supervisors from across the 20-state Forest Service Northeast Region for his commitment to and experience and knowledge in fire service, and for his leadership and direction in wildland fire community programs.

"It is an honor to receive this award, and it would not have been possible without the cooperation of my dedicated staff and the support from my family," states Nelson.

Nelson has served as Chief of the Forest Protection Bureau for 15 years and has been an active member of the Northeast Forest Fire Supervisors (NFFS) throughout his tenure. Nelson was Chairman of the NFFS from 1991 to 1992 and has served on its training team, including eight years as Training Team Chairman. He represents New Hampshire, the other New England states and New York through the NFFS' Northeast area wildland fire coordinating group.

Nelson also serves in several other leadership roles including New Hampshire's representative to the Northeastern Forest Fire Protection Commission, a commissioner on the NH Fire Standards & Training Commission, a member of the executive committee of the NH State Federation of Forest Fire Warden Associations, and secretary for the NH Federation of Mutual Aid Associations.

Nelson is well known and respected in the fire service, and his commitment to forest fire protection is demonstrated by his ongoing involvement with wildland fire community programs. "Chief Nelson's commitment to the fire mission, his knowledge and experience in that mission, and his relationship building across the region to strengthen our own program here in New Hampshire has truly been outstanding," states Director Phil Bryce of the Division of Forests & Lands.

Nelson resides in Sutton with his wife, Christine, and daughter, Carlene.



The Forest Protection Bureau, one of five bureaus within the Division of Forests and Lands, consists of Forest Law Enforcement, Wildland Fire and Forest Health Programs. It exists to serve the citizens of New Hampshire in forest protection matters through cooperation with local, state and federal partners.

The Bureau trains and assists local fire departments with wildland fire training, fire detection and fire suppression, works with local communities to track logging activities and to enforce the timber harvesting and related water quality laws, and conducts detection and monitoring of forest health stressors throughout the State.

The Division of Forests & Lands, one of four divisions with the Department of Resources and Economic Development, exists to protect and promote the value provided by New Hampshire's forests and related resources. The Division consists of five units: the Forest Management Bureau, the Land Management Bureau, the Forest Protection Bureau, the Forest Information and Planning Bureau, and the Cooperative Forestry Programs through an agreement with the University of New Hampshire Cooperative Extension. For more information about the Division of Forests & Lands and its programs and services, call 603-271-2215.

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NVFC Announces Bill to Limit Liability of Donors

On June 23, Representatives Mike Castle (R-DE), Rick Boucher (D-VA) and Bob Goodlatte (R-VA) introduced H.R. 4736, the Good Samaritan Volunteer Firefighter Assistance Act. If passed, this legislation would limit the liability of companies and wealthier fire departments that donate surplus equipment to volunteer fire departments. The introduction and passage of this type of legislation has been a long-time priority of the National Volunteer Fire Council (NVFC). Representatives James Talent (R-MO) and Curt Weldon (R-PA) also signed on as original cosponsors.

"We are very pleased that this bill has finally been introduced at the federal level," said Fred Allinson, NVFC Chairman. "Although we will continue to pursue direct grant programs such as the FIRE Bill, this legislation can open the door to millions of dollars in equipment donations to volunteer fire departments. Currently, volunteer firefighters have to spend a lot of their time raising money, time that could be used for training."

The legislation is modeled after a bill that the Texas state legislature passed in 1997. Prior to this legislation, companies and wealthier fire departments in Texas has refrained from donating their used equipment for fear of potential lawsuits. Now, they donate their surplus equipment to the Texas Forest Service, which then certifies the equipment and passes it on to volunteer fire departments that are in need. The donated equipment must meet all original specifications before it can be sent to volunteer departments. The program has already received in excess of \$6 million worth of equipment for volunteer fire departments.

Every year, quality fire equipment, including hoses, fire trucks, protective clothing and breathing apparatus worth millions of dollars are destroyed instead of being donated to volunteer fire departments in order to avoid civil liability lawsuits.

The bill was referred to the House Committee on the Judiciary.



NVFC Testifies Before Congress on FIRE Bill



On July 25, the National Volunteer Fire Council (NVFC), the International Association of Fire Chiefs (IAFC), the International Association of Fire Fighters (IAFF) and Members of Congress testified before the Senate Committee on Commerce, Science and Technology. During the hearing, the witnesses eloquently stated the case for federal assistance for the fire service.

The hearing was called by Committee Chairman John McCain (R-AZ) to discuss H.R. 1168 / S. 1941, the Firefighter Investment and Response Enhancement (FIRE) Act. The FIRE Bill was introduced in the House by Representatives by Bill Pascrell (D-NJ) and Curt Weldon (R-PA) and in the Senate by Senators Christopher Dodd (D-CT) and Mike DeWine, all who testified at the hearing. The bipartisan legislation currently has 277 cosponsors in the House and 34 cosponsors in the Senate.

The FIRE Bill would attempt to give firefighters the level of funding the federal government has provided to law enforcement, educators, and other professionals by authorizing \$5 billion in competitive grants to fire departments over 5 years. It would provide grants to fire departments for training, EMS expenses, apparatus, communications, wellness/fitness programs, PPE, infrastructure modification, personnel, certification of fire inspectors, fire prevention programs and public education. The grants would be available to volunteer, paid, and combination departments and fire departments would have to match 10 percent of the grant to be eligible.

Representing the NVFC was its former Chairman, James Monihan from Lewes, Delaware. Monihan, a 43-year veteran of the volunteer fire service, expressed the NVFC's strong support for the FIRE Bill. He also reminded the subcommittee members that many of America's volunteer departments are ill prepared to cope with the complexities of today's emergency incidents. "These departments are struggling to provide their members with adequate protective clothing, safety devices and training to protect their communities," Monihan said. "At the same time, the federal government is asking the fire service to respond to calls involving terrorism, hazardous materials, natural and man-made disasters and wildland/urban interface fires."

On July 13, the Senate passed a \$309.8 billion Fiscal Year 2001 Defense Authorization Bill (S.2549) with the Firefighter Investment and Response Enhancement (FIRE) Act language included as an amendment (S.AMDT.3753). The amendment, introduced by Senator Christopher Dodd (D-CT) and cosponsored by 16 other Senators, would authorize \$3.1 billion over six years (the FIRE Bill authorizes \$1 billion per year for five years) in direct grants to the fire service. The amendment's language still needs to survive a conference committee that will take place after the August recess. To see a full copy of Mr. Monihan's testimony visit www.nvfc.org.



Senate Passes Defense Authorization with FIRE Bill Attached

On July 13, the Senate passes a \$309.8 billion Fiscal Year 2001 Defense Authorization Bill (S. 2549) with the Firefighter Investment and Response Enhancement (FIRE) Act language included as an amendment (S.AMDT.3753). The amendment, introduced by Senator Christopher Dodd (D-CT) and cosponsored by 16 other Senators, would authorize \$3.1 billion over six years (the FIRE Bill authorizes \$1 billion per year) in direct grants to the fire service.

The Fiscal Year 2001 Defense Authorization Act must now go to conference, where its future is uncertain due to questions over whether the Defense bill is the proper place to authorize spending for the fire service. The House passed its version in May without the FIRE Act amendment. The Defense Authorization Bill authorizes funds for Pentagon operations, military construction and family housing, as well as the Energy Department's nuclear weapons program.

"The NVFC is proud to have someone like Senator Dodd pushing for recognition of the fire service in the Senate," said Chairman Fred G. Allinson. "With time dwindling in this congressional session, now is our last to let his colleagues know that they can no longer ignore the other half of the public safety equation, the fire service."

As an authorization bill, this measure would provide Congress with the description of how the money is to be allocated and the maximum amount to be spent. The actual appropriation of that money must again go through Congress and pass both sides in an appropriations bill.

The major fire service organizations testified before the Senate Commerce Committee on the FIRE Act on Tuesday, July 25. In addition, Rep. Steny Hoyer, Rep. Curt Weldon, Sen. Bill Roth and other supporters are working on adding the \$100 million appropriation for the fire service into one of the FY 2001 appropriations bills. The \$100 million was left out of the final FY 2000 supplemental spending bill.

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 NH EMS Region III Office — Epping 603-679-5814
 NH EMS Region IV Office — Berlin 603-752-7531

The Division is involved in facilitating the following projects:

EMS Strategic Planning Process: The NH Emergency Medical & Trauma Services Coordinating Board, along with the NH EMS Medical Control Board, conducted a planning retreat in mid-September. This will initiate an intensive pro-

cess to develop a ten-year plan for the Division of EMS within the N.H. Department of Safety.

Ambulance Fee Reimbursement Seminar: Dan Manz, Vermont EMS Director and member of the Negotiated Rulemaking Team, will overview the proposed Health Care Finance Administration's (HCFA) new universal fee schedule slated to take effect in 2001. The one-day seminar was scheduled for early September.

Older Adult Injury Prevention: Planning underway for an October 16, 2000 statewide injury prevention conference to be held in Exeter, NH at The Inn at Exeter. The focus will be on keeping our older New Hampshire citizens and guests safe and healthy.

Reminder: EMT-Basic, EMT-Intermediate and Paramedic refresher season is fast approaching to meet the March 31, 2001 re-registration deadline. EMS providers are urged to consult the "NH EMS Course & Exam Schedule" or the Division's new EMS website www.state.nh.us/safety/ems for refresher courses and practical exams.

FIRE INSTRUCTORS & OFFICERS ASSOCIATION OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

Executive Directors

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| FST Representative: | Jim Litevich | | (w) 271-2661 | |
| FST Commission Rep.: | Scott Carrigan | (h) 775-0378 | (w) 772-1212 | carrigan.scott@adlittle.com |
| Director Emeritus: | Peter Carver | | | |

Mission Statement

The mission of the Fire Instructors & Officers Association of New Hampshire is to provide a range of services designed to assist firefighters, fire instructors, and fire officers of New Hampshire in adequate training programs, instructor training, and provide support as needed by any fire service agency to train fire service personnel in safe emergency operations.

Web Page Being Designed

The Association is currently looking into developing a web page. Once the page has been designed, however, we have no one to monitor and update the site. Anyone with some experience or just a desire is urged to contact Secretary/Treasurer Jon True.

Members Wanted

The Association is currently holding a membership drive. We are looking for anyone who would be interested in joining the Association. If you know of anyone, or have let your membership lapse and would like to rejoin, please complete an application and mail it back to Jon True. At the annual meeting dues was set at \$10.00 per year.

FIRE INSTRUCTORS & OFFICERS ASSOCIATION OF NH

Application for Membership

Name: _____ Rank/Title: _____

Mailing Address: _____ email: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

Fire Department or Organization: _____

I hereby apply for:

___ Active Membership: (a) Certified NH Fire Instructor (b) Chief of Fire Standards & Training (c) Officer of recognized Fire Department

___ Associate Membership: Any person interested in the furtherance of Fire Service Training

___ Student Membership: Any Fire Protection/Science student

Membership Fee: \$10.00 due April each year, payable to FIOANH

I agree to take an active and interested part in the work and goals of the Fire Instructors & Officers Association of New Hampshire, and will do my utmost to advance fire fighting training and education in New Hampshire, and to cultivate fraternal fellowship and mutual programs of training methods between all Fire Service organizations, both State and Local.

Date of Application: _____ Signature: _____

Please mail this application to: Jon True, Secretary/Treasurer
FIOANH
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The Fire Service Association of New Hampshire

